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CAPTAIN AMERICA



**HEROES
REVUNITED**
PART 4 OF 4

**LOEB
BENNETT
BENES**

Marvel

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P HILADELPHIA, THE CITY
OF BROTHERLY LOVE.

IN A NEIGHBORHOOD
THAT ONCE WAS THE
PRIDE OF THE CITY.

A YOUNG WOMAN
WORRIES ABOUT ALL
HER TOMORROWS.

RIKKI BARNES HAS
DONE EVERYTHING
RIGHT ALL HER LIFE.

SO, WHEN HER
WORLD COLLIDED
WITH A CERTAIN
STAR SPANGLED
PATRIOT.

-- SHE MANAGED
TO SLIDE INTO
PLACE AT HIS
SIDE.

IT'S NOT
FAIR!

SHE GOT FURTHER TRAINING
FROM AMERICA'S PREMIERE
SPY SCHOOL -- S.H.I.E.L.D.

AND THEY GAVE
HER A BRAND
NEW COSTUME.

BUT, THAT HAS ALL
CHANGED. SHE NEVER
REALLY FIT IN. AS IF...
SHE NEVER COULD...

SO, SHE HAS COME
HOME TO THE HOUSE OF
HER GRANDPARENTS.

FOR ADVICE.
FOR LOVE.
FOR...

Uh-OH.

... TROUBLE.

GRANDPA...?
GRANDMA!

RIKKI
BARNES.

--URK--



LET IT BE

WHILE
DOCTOR DOOM
DOES NOT HARM
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN...

...INTENTIONALLY...

I WILL MAKE
AN EXCEPTION
SHOULD YOU
CHOOSE TO
RESIST.



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EXCEPT THIS, BUD!



YOU PICKED THE WRONG DAY.

AND THE WRONG GIRL...
TO MESS --



-- WITH.



ARE YOU THROUGH?



I'M NOT
AFRAID OF
YOU.
I'M
NOT.

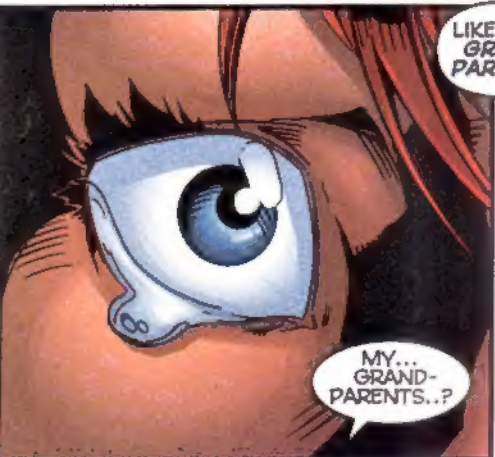


FEAR IS
A RELATIVE
THING.

THERE IS
THE FEAR OF
LOSING ONE'S
OWN LIFE.

THEN,
THERE IS THE
FEAR OF
ENDANGERING
THE LIVES OF
OTHERS.

LIKE ONE'S
GRAND-
PARENTS.



MY...
GRAND-
PARENTS...?



YOU HAD
NO RIGHT TO
BRING THEM
INTO THIS!
THEY'RE
JUST TWO
NICE OLD
PEOPLE!



I HAVE EVERY RIGHT.

THIS PLANET HAS LESS THAN 24 HOURS TO SURVIVE.

I KNOW.

I HAVE SEEN IT DIE THREE TIMES NOW.

F.F.#12, AVENGERS#12 & IRON MAN #12 --Mikel



THEY --GRRR-- OUGHTA OPEN UP YOUR ARMOR A BIT AND LET IN SOME AIR -- -- YOUR BRAIN'S GONE SOGGY.



CHILD.

ACCORDING TO THE S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES I... OBTAINED...

...YOU ARE A CHRONAL ANOMALY. BY ALL RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD NOT EXIST.

AND YET YOU DO.

WHY?

--PFFT-- HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE ANYTHING S.H.I.E.L.D. TELLS YOU?

IRON MAN #12 -- Mike











OUR
TIME GROWS
PATHETICALLY
SHORT.

FROM THE
INFORMATION I
HAVE GATHERED --
INCLUDING FROM
S.H.I.E.L.D.'S
ARCHIVES --

WE
MUST ACT
NOW.



S.H.I.E.L.D.?
HOW ARE YOU
AND S.H.I.E.L.D.
CONNECTED?

YEAH!
WHAT HE
SAID!

SEE IRON MAN #121
OKAY! --Mikel



LISTEN
TO ME WELL.
THE FATE OF THIS
ENTIRE UNIVERSE
HANGS IN THE
BALANCE.

I WOULD NOT
HAVE COME HERE.
I WOULD NOT HAVE
SUBMITTED TO
YOUR ARROGANT
POSTURE.



IF...
THERE WERE
ANY OTHER
WAY...



"EVEN AS WE SPEAK,
THE SO-CALLED
"FANTASTIC FOUR" WAGE
A BATTLE IN CENTRAL
PARK.

"THEIR ANTAGONISTS
ARE FOUR HERALDS.

"THE FOUR HORSEMEN
OF THE APOCALYPSE,
IF YOU WILL.

"AND IF WE
DO NOT ACT
SWIFTLY --

"THE FANTASTIC FOUR
WILL DIE AND THE WORLD
WILL TEETER EVER CLOSER
TO OBLIVION.



THESE FOUR
HERALDS.
BEGINNING
WITH

TERRAX.



PLASMA.



FIRELORD.



AIR WALKER.

"IF THEY SUCCEED
IN REMOVING REED
RICHARDS AND HIS...
OTHERS... FROM THE
FIELD OF BATTLE.

"THEN, I HAVE
RISKED EVERYTHING
IN JOURNEYING
BACK IN TIME --

"... FOR
NAUGHT!"

SUDDENLY...

HULK SMASH!

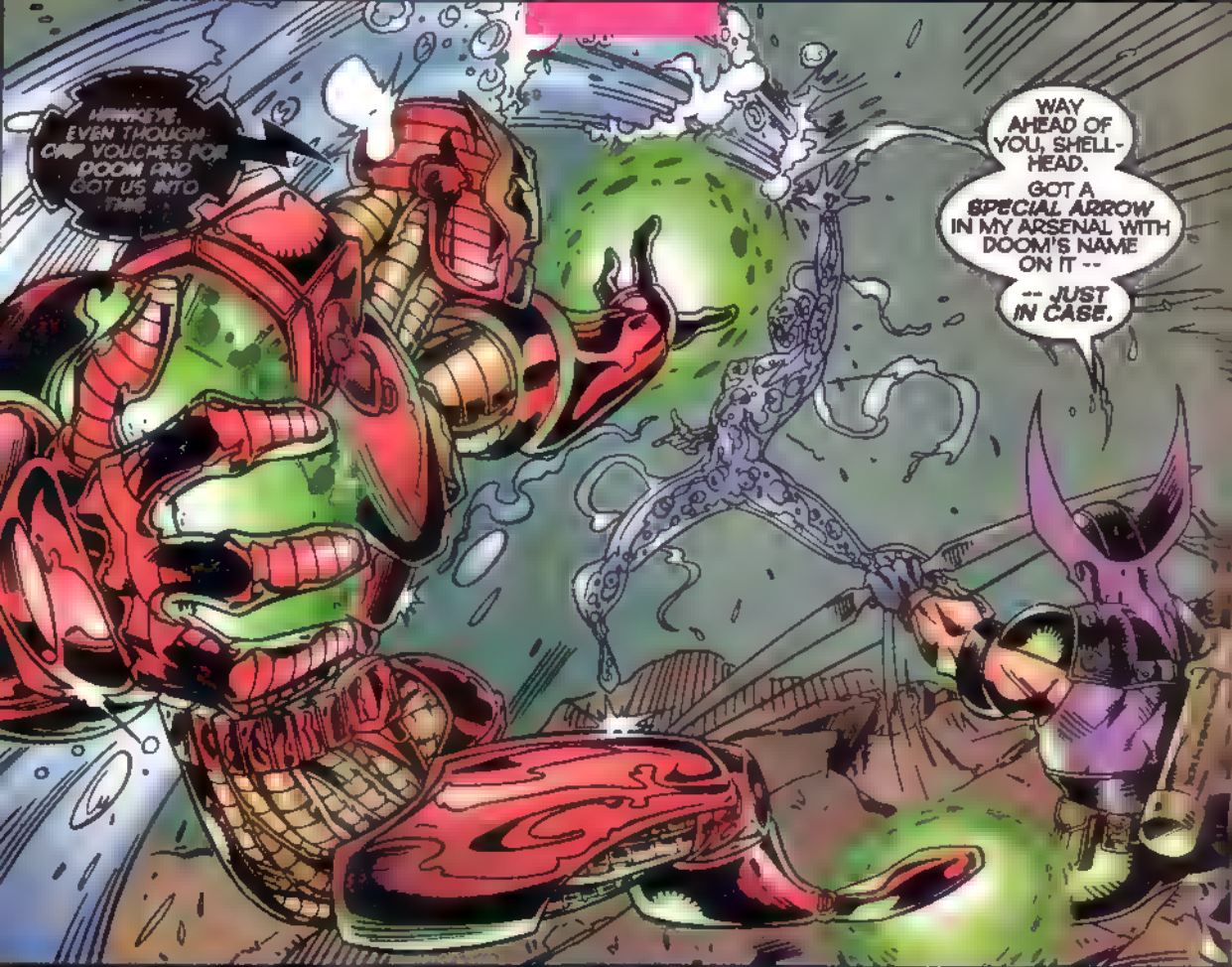
WE'LL PUT, EMERALD ONE. VERILY, THE AVENGERS WOULDST BE PROUD TO HAVE THEE AS OUR ALLY PERMANENTLY.

VISION. DO YOU SENSE IT? THAT ODD FEELING THAT THIS HAS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE.

I AM SCANNING ALL DATA BANKS AND FIND NO PREVIOUS ENTRIES OF AN ENCOUNTER SUCH AS THIS.

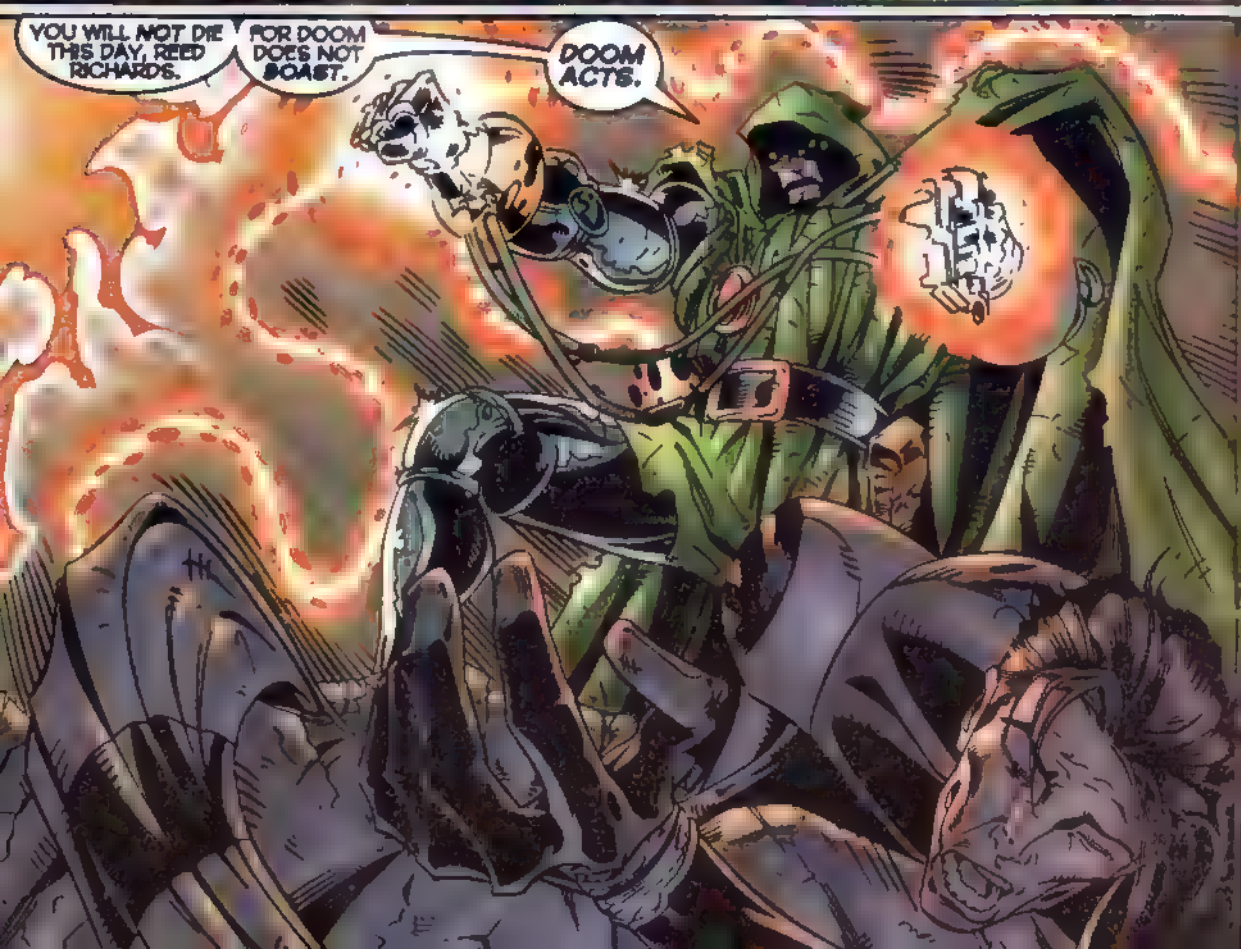
AND YET, EVEN A SYNTHETOID IS AWARE OF THE HUMAN PHENOMENON YOU DESCRIBE CALLED:

"DEJA VU."



HAHA! EVEN THOUGH
CAMP VOUCHES FOR
DOOM AND
GOT US INTO
THIS...

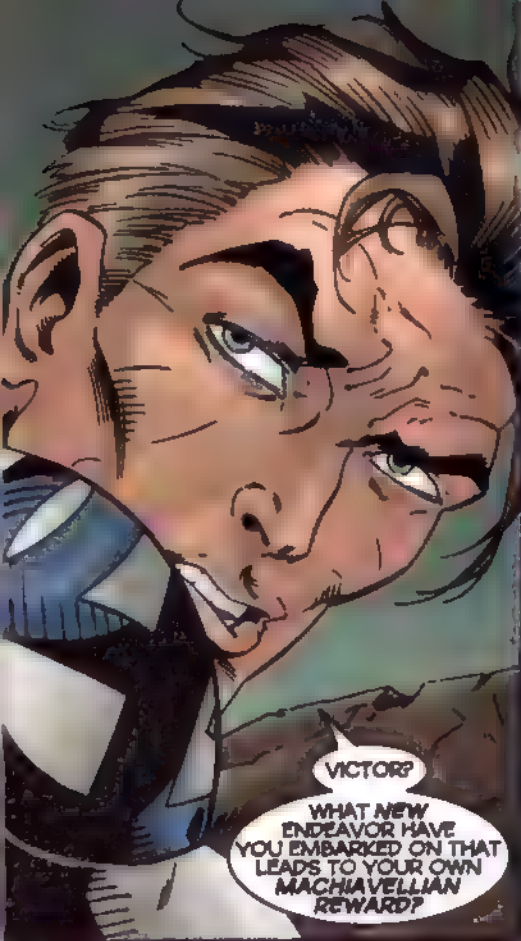
WAY
AHEAD OF
YOU, SHELL-
HEAD.
GOT A
SPECIAL ARROW
IN MY ARSENAL WITH
DOOM'S NAME
ON IT --
-- JUST
IN CASE.



YOU WILL NOT DIE
THIS DAY, REED
RICHARDS.

FOR DOOM
DOES NOT
BOAST.

DOOM
ACTS.



VICTOR?
WHAT NEW
ENDEAVOR HAVE
YOU EMBARKED ON THAT
LEADS TO YOUR OWN
MACHIAVELLIAN
REWARD?



YOU, OF ALL
PEOPLE, WILL NOT
SPEAK TO ME WITH
SUCH DISRESPECT,
RICHARDS.

MY
ACTIONS PUT
YOU IN DOOM'S
DEBT.

AND AS
SUCH, YOU
WILL BOW
TO MY --

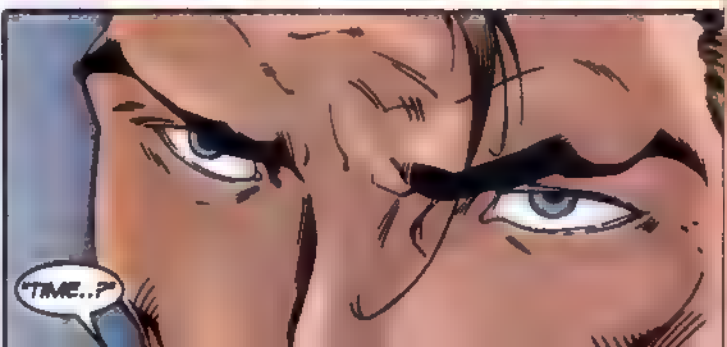


DOOM. YOU
GAVE YOUR
WORD.
I HAVE
BROUGHT THESE
HEROES TOGETHER.
REUNITED US, IN
THIS DARK
HOUR.

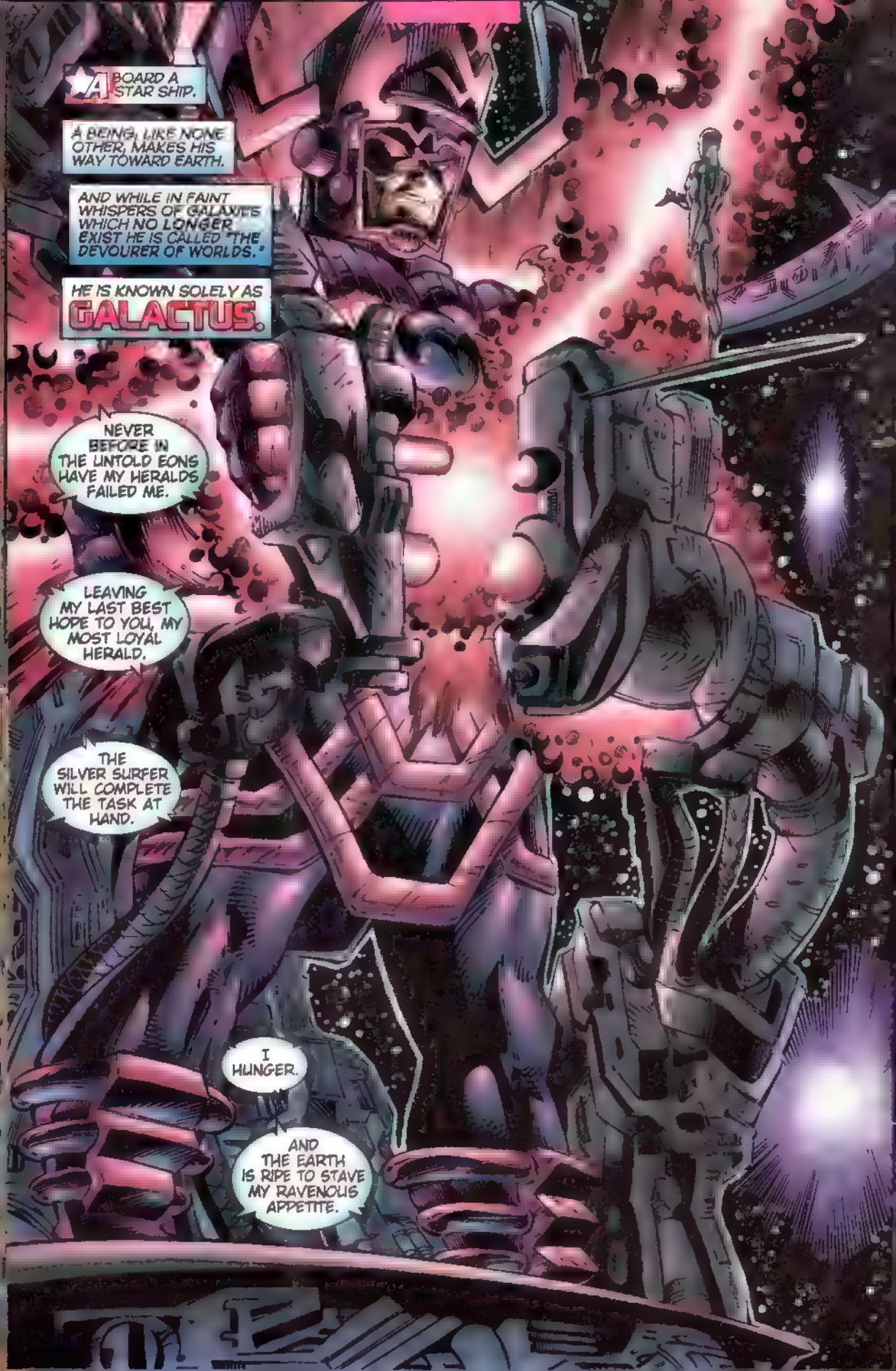
NOW, YOU LIVE UP
TO YOUR END OF THE
BARGAIN. THIS ISN'T
THE TIME --



TIME.
YES...
"TIME AND
TIME AGAIN".



"TIME...?"



A BOARD A
STAR SHIP.

A BEING, LIKE NONE
OTHER, MAKES HIS
WAY TOWARD EARTH.

AND WHILE IN FAINT
WHISPERS OF GALAXIES
WHICH NO LONGER
EXIST HE IS CALLED "THE
DEVOURER OF WORLDS."

HE IS KNOWN SOLELY AS
GALACTUS.

NEVER
BEFORE IN
THE UNTOLD EONS
HAVE MY HERALDS
FAILED ME.

LEAVING
MY LAST BEST
HOPE TO YOU, MY
MOST LOYAL
HERALD.

THE
SILVER SURFER
WILL COMPLETE
THE TASK AT
HAND.

I
HUNGER.

AND
THE EARTH
IS RIPE TO STAVE
MY RAVENOUS
APPETITE.

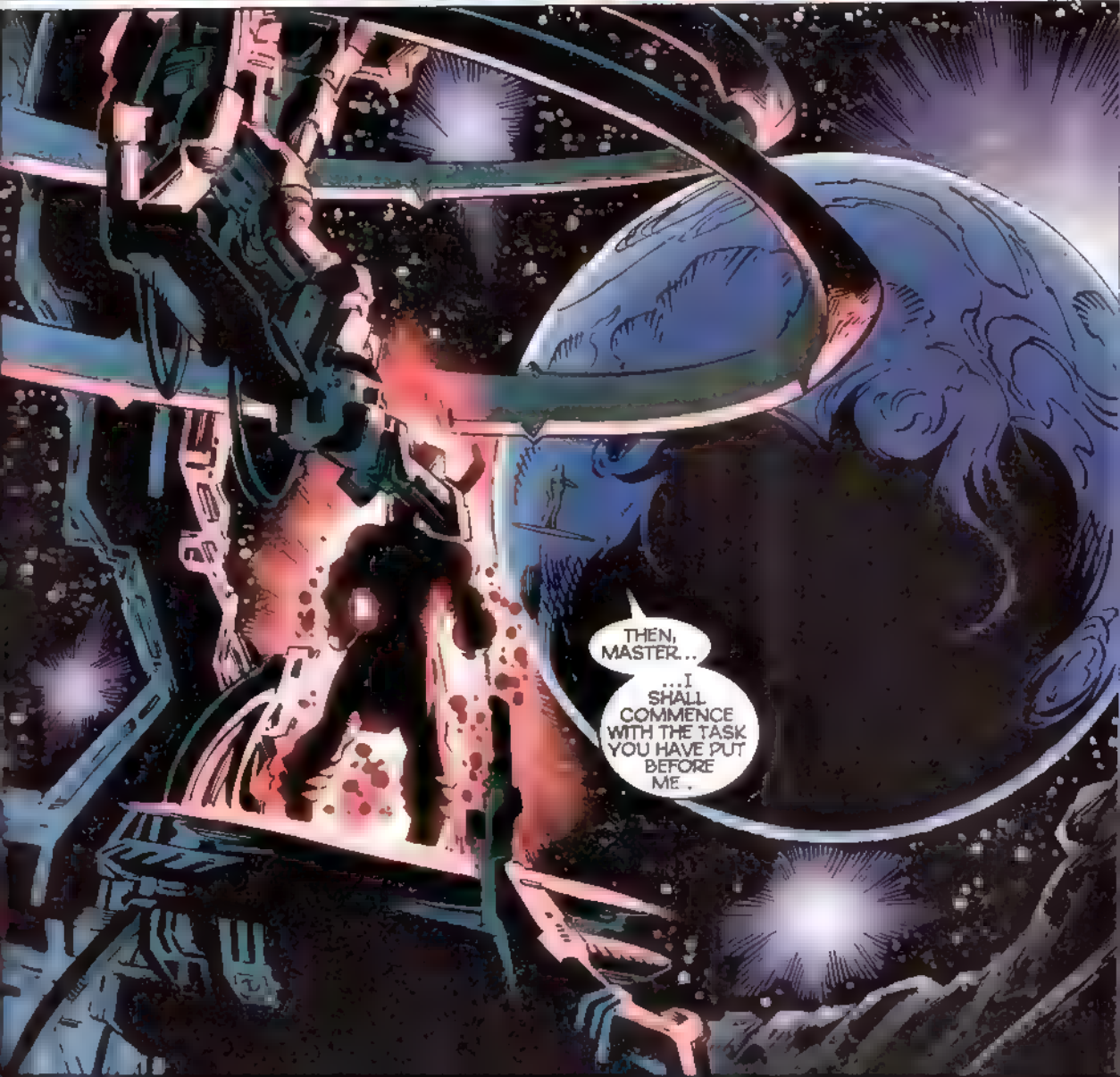


IF I MAY,
MASTER, HAVE BUT
ONE MORE DAY TO
FIND A PLANET EVEN
MORE SUITABLE TO
YOUR --



NOW
IS NOT THE
TIME FOR YOU
TO SIDE WITH
ANYONE.

SAVE
GALACTUS
HIMSELF.



THEN,
MASTER...

...I
SHALL
COMMENCE
WITH THE TASK
YOU HAVE PUT
BEFORE
ME.

AVENGERS
MANSION.
SOON.

INCREDIBLE

STARK.
PYM. BANNER.
RICHARDS. AND
MYSELF.

WE, WHO
ONCE WERE "THE
KNIGHTS OF THE
ATOMIC ROUND
TABLE."

AND
REBEL. DON'T
FORGET HIM,
VICTOR.

WHATEVER.

THREE
TIMES DOOM
HAS JOURNEYED
BACK ONLY TWENTY-
FOUR HOURS TO
RELIVE THIS
DAY.

THREE
TIMES DOOM
HAS BEEN HUMBLED
IN MY EFFORTS TO
SPARE THIS PLANET
FROM GALACTUS.

THAT
ALONE SHOULD
GIVE YOU ALL
ENOUGH PAUSE AS
TO WHY I WOULD SEEK
ANY OF YOUR HELP.

THIS IS
OUR FINAL
CHANCE.

MY
CHRONO-
METER WAS
DAMAGED AND
I CANNOT RISK
ANOTHER JUMP
INTO THE
PAST.

I... HESITATE
TO SAY SO.

BUT,
I THINK
VICTOR IS
TELLING THE
TRUTH.

THEN,
HOW...



-- HOW DOES
A BEING FILLED
WITH AN APPETITE
FOR INSATIABLE
ENERGY BE
DEFEATED,
REED?

HEAR ME OUT.
MY EXPERIENCE WITH
THE EXPOSURE TO GAMMA
RADIATION HAS TAUGHT
ME THAT ENERGY, IN LARGE
DOSES CAN REDEFINE
THE CORPOREAL
STRUCTURE

HE SHOULD KNOW. **BRUCE BANNER**
IS **THE HULK** - Duh Mike.



WHAT
ARE YOU
SUGGESTING,
BRUCE?



THAT WE
GIVE GALACTUS
EXACTLY WHAT
HE WANTS...



WHAT?!

★ **AND WHILE THE GREATEST MINDS ON EARTH TRY TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF HOW TO STOP GALACTUS...**

THE REMAINING HEROES HAVE A BRIEF RESPITE TO REFLECT ON THEIR LIVES AND THE PAST YEAR.

ALL SAVE ONE...

I SAY GO FOR IT, WANDA.

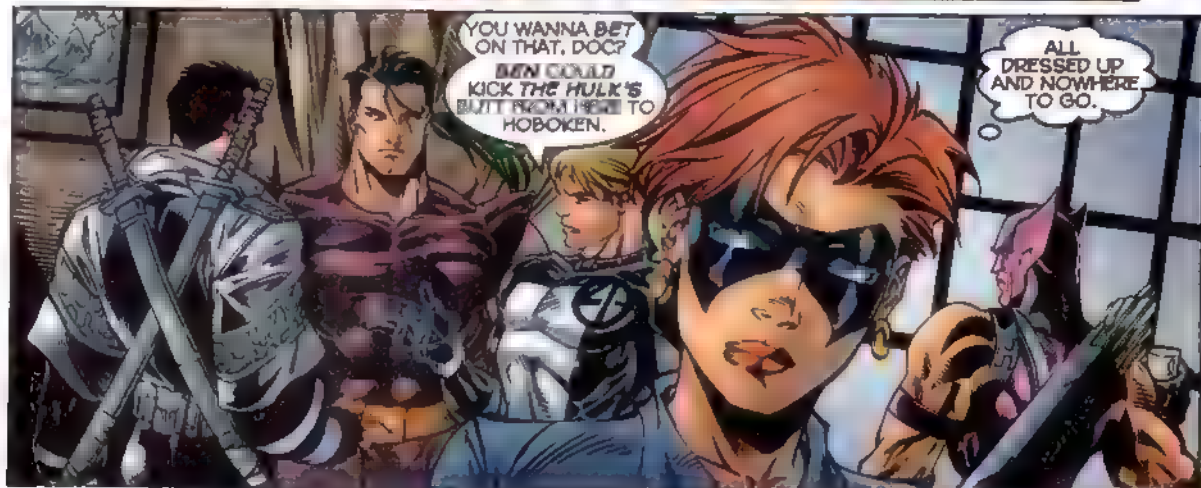
IF YOU WANT TO LEAD THE AVENGERS, BEING A WOMAN WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE IN MY OPINION

SWELL...



YOU WANNA BET ON THAT, DOC? BEN COULD KICK THE HULK'S BUTT FROM HERE TO HOBOKEN.

ALL DRESSED UP AND NOWHERE TO GO.



THOR, WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TABLES WITH YOU BREAKING THEM...

SUCH IS THE PRICE OF GOOD SPORT, MY FRIEND.

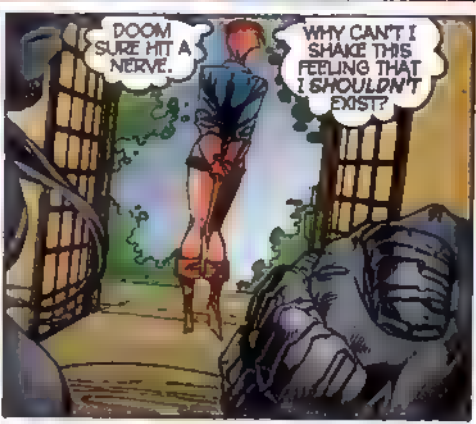
"CHRONAL ANOMALY" OR NOT. WHATEVER THAT IS.

HEY, KEEP YER ELBOW ON THE MAT, GOLDBLOCKS



DOOM SURE HIT A NERVE.

WHY CAN'T I SHAKE THIS FEELING THAT I SHOULDN'T EXIST?



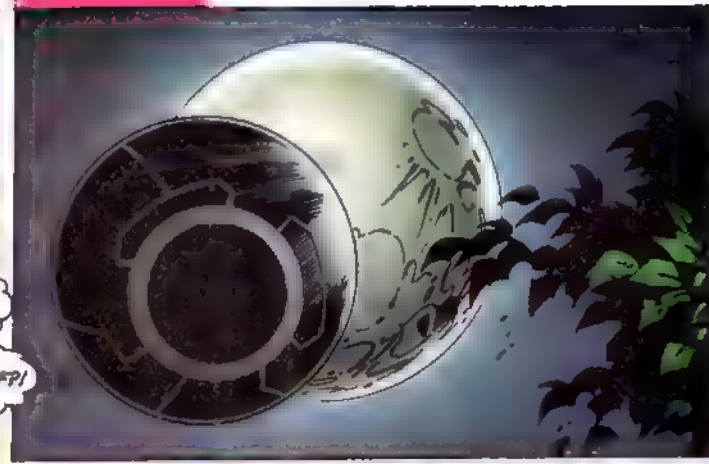
RIKKI..?





NOT TOO
SELASH.
THE
UNIVERSE IS
GOING TO,
LIKE, END.

AND
I'M FEELING
SORRY FOR--
-- MYSELF?!



YIKES.

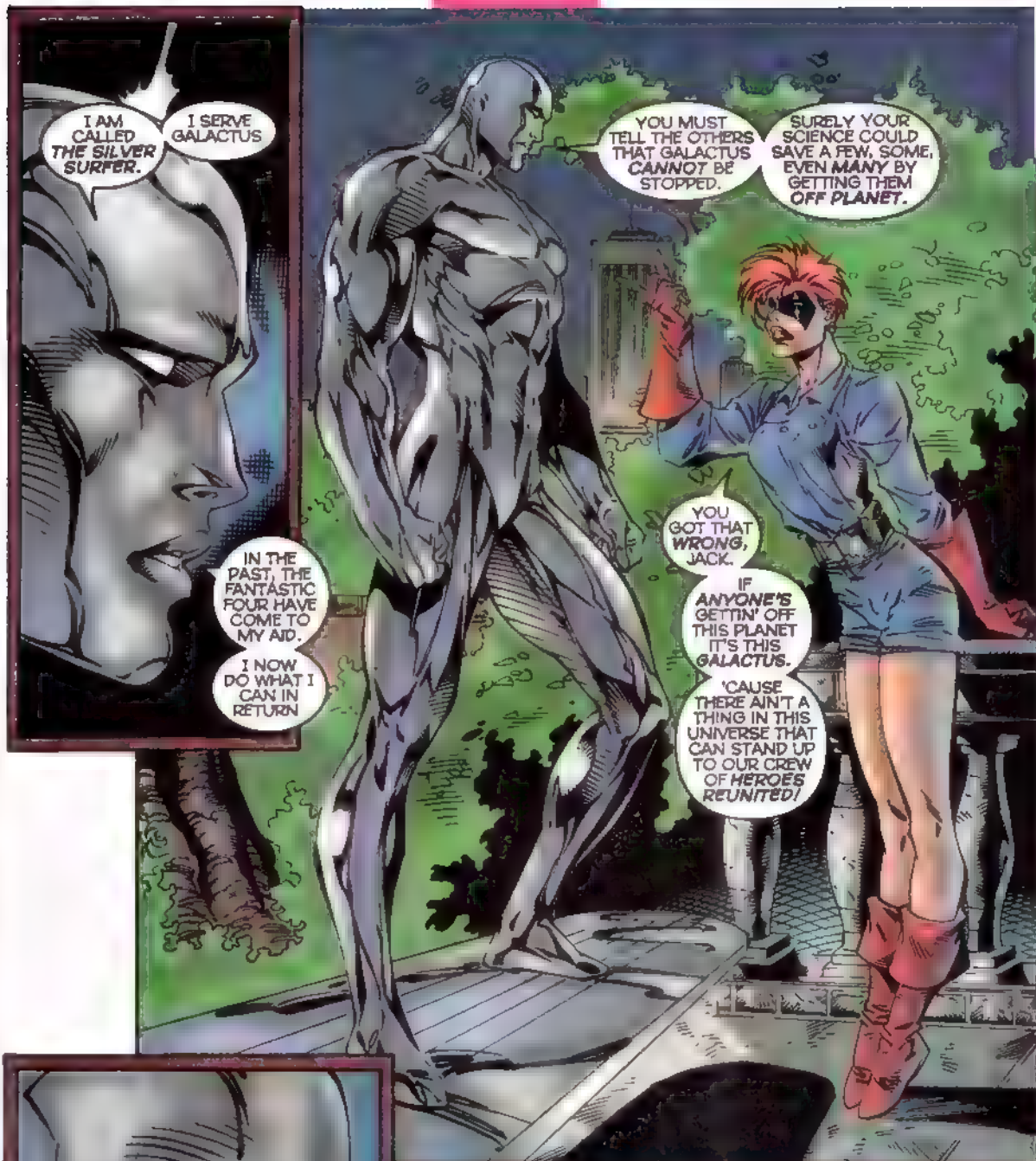


WHAT?

WHAT?
WHAT
ARE YOU
SUPPOSED
TO BE?!

"AND A
CHILD
SHALL HEAR
THEM..."

ME!!



I AM
CALLED
THE SILVER
SURFER.

I SERVE
GALACTUS

YOU MUST
TELL THE OTHERS
THAT GALACTUS
CANNOT BE
STOPPED.

SURELY YOUR
SCIENCE COULD
SAVE A FEW, SOME,
EVEN MANY BY
GETTING THEM
OFF PLANET.

IN THE
PAST, THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR HAVE
COME TO
MY AID.

I NOW
DO WHAT I
CAN IN
RETURN

YOU
GOT THAT
WRONG,
JACK.

IF
ANYONE'S
GETTIN' OFF
THIS PLANET
IT'S THIS
GALACTUS.

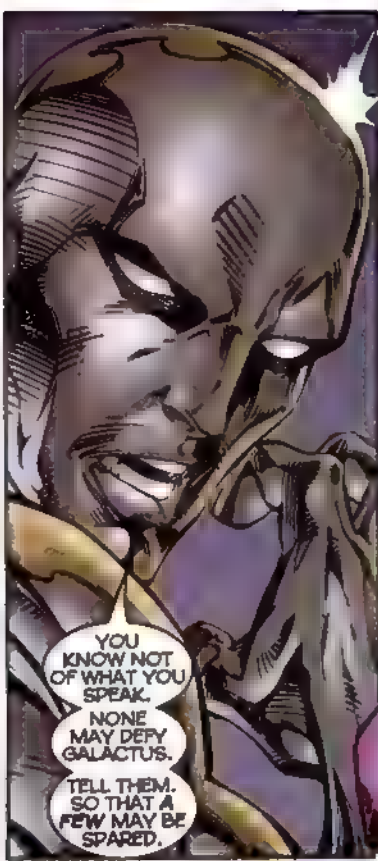
'CAUSE
THERE AIN'T A
THING IN THIS
UNIVERSE THAT
CAN STAND UP
TO OUR CREW
OF HEROES
REUNITED!



YOU
WILL
FAIL.



YEAH,
WELL, IF YOU
CARE SO MUCH,
THEN WHY DON'T
YOU GIVE US A
HAND?





RIKKI!
DROP OFF
INTO THE
WATER!

NO! I
CAN BRING
THE SURFER
BACK!
I KNOW
I CAN!

RIKKI,
LET GO!



I DON'T
KNOW HOW --
BUT I KNOW
THIS IS THE ROLE
I'M SUPPOSED
TO PLAY!

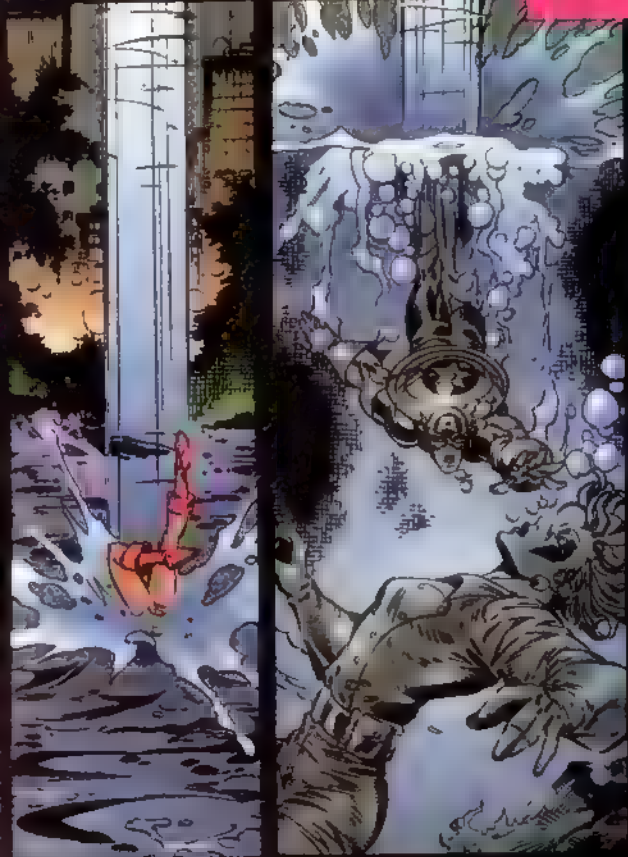


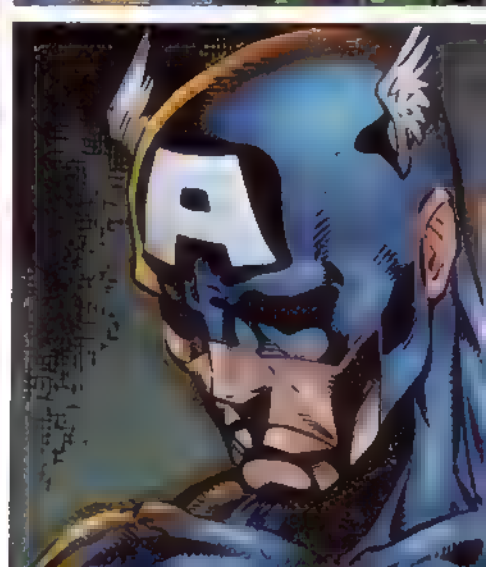
HRRRM.



NONE MAY
TOUCH WHAT IS
GALACTUS!

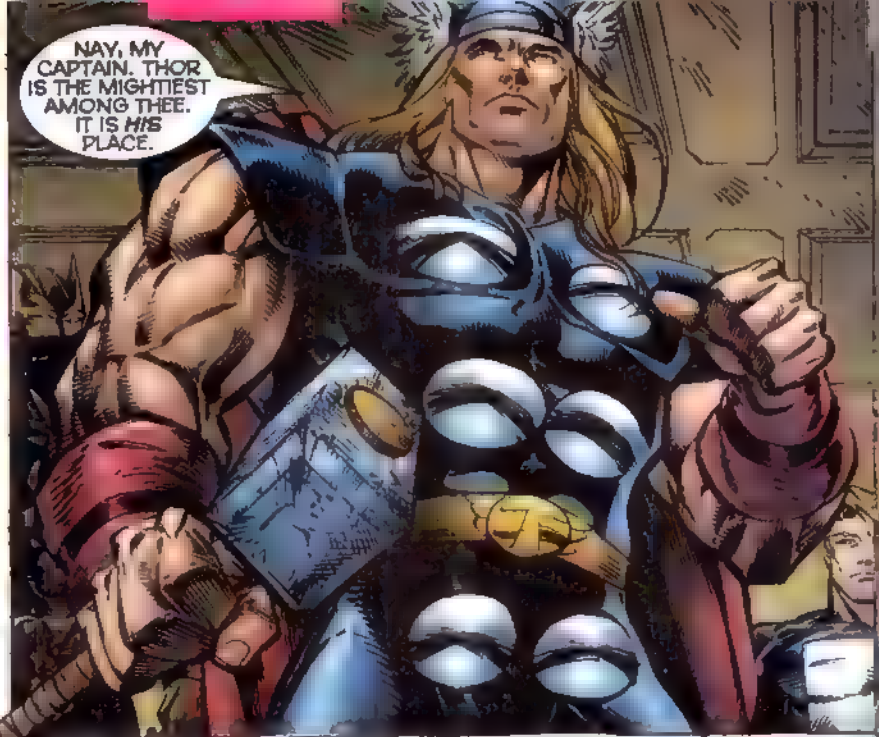
NO!



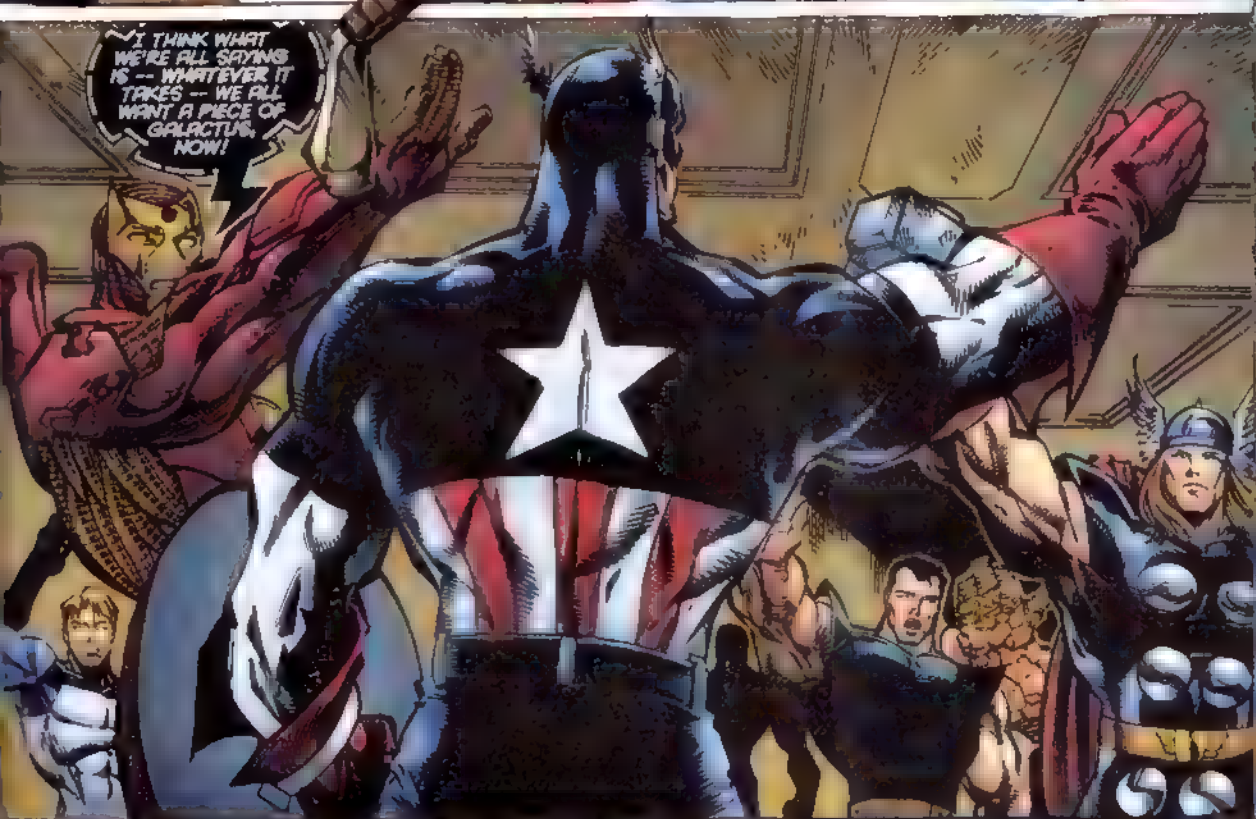




REED, IF
YOU HAVE
A MEANS
TO STOP
GALACTUS,
I WANT
THAT SHOT.



NAY, MY
CAPTAIN. THOR
IS THE MIGHTIEST
AMONG THEE.
IT IS HIS
PLACE.



I THINK WHAT
WE'RE ALL SAYING
IS -- WHATEVER IT
TAKES -- WE ALL
WANT A PIECE OF
GALACTUS,
NOW!



BUT, ONLY
ONE OF YOU CAN
SUCCEED.



THE SILVER
SURFER
STANDS
WITH HUMANKIND
THIS DAY!



OUR INTENTION IS TO OVERLOAD GALACTUS' INTERNAL ORGANIC ENERGY CONVERSION.

CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD, AIDED BY YOUR OWN POWER COSMIC, SHOULD PROTECT YOU FROM GALACTUS' INITIAL ONSLAUGHT.

REBEL'S GLOVES AND DOOM'S POWER SIPHON WILL ALLOW THE HEROES TO SEND THEIR POWER TO THE SURFER.

-- CHANNELING IT ALL THROUGH THE NULLIFIER.

AND, GOD WILLING, GALACTUS WILL BE STOPPED.

WHEN I OFFERED TO HELP I HAD NO CONCEPT --



DO NOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE THEN.

SINCE, FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME, NO FORCE, GOD OR OTHERWISE, HAS STOPPED GALACTUS.



IF THE SURFER IS CORRECT --

-- DO I DARE MAKE ANOTHER TIME JUMP?

ATOP THE BAXTER BUILDING.

TO MY
SIDE, MY LOYAL
HERALD.

WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?

HEROES
UNITED.
TOGETHER WE
DOST SEND OUR
COMBINED POWER
THROUGH MY
ENCHANTED
HAMMER.

IF THERE
WERE ANY OTHER
WAY...

BETRAYED?!

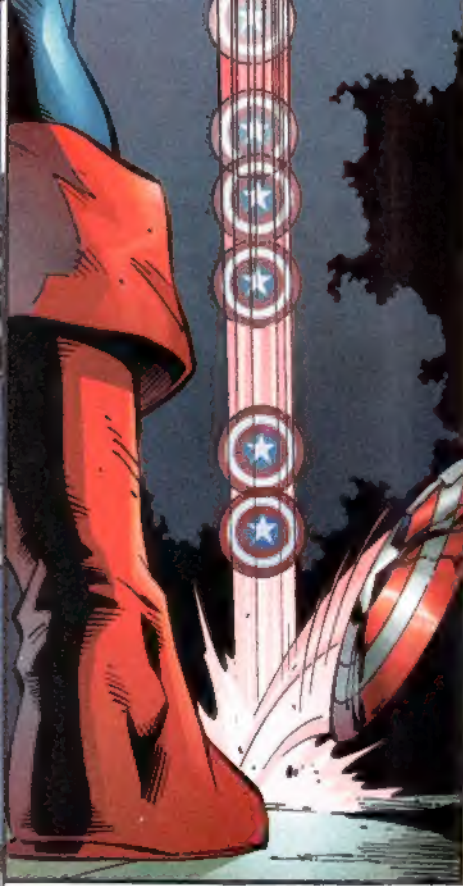


DRINK
DEEP, AGED ONE.
FOR EVEN YOU MUST
HAVE A LIMIT TO THE
POWER COSMIC
YOU CAN
ABSORB.

**TOO
MUCH...**

IT
IS TOO
MUCH.

TOO
RAW.



REST WELL,
SURFER.

OUR
WORLD WILL
LONG REMEMBER
YOUR
SACRIFICE.



VICTOR, THIS
DAY WOULD
NOT HAVE BEEN
WON WITHOUT
YOU.

I OFFER YOU
MY HAND, ONCE
MORE, IN
FRIENDSHIP.



FRIENDSHIP..?



WHERE DOOM
NOW GOES...
...HE GOES
ALONE.

REED.

DAYS LATER. ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY.

I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN IT.

THE **HEROES** UNITED FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT.

I HOPE I'VE DONE YOU PROUD, ABE.

YOU HAVE.

WHO --?

EXCUSE US FOR INTRUDING, BUT WE WANTED TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES.

HOW IS SHE...?

I'M **RICHARD BARNES**. MY FRIENDS CALL ME "**BUCKY**".

AND I'M **PEGGY CARTER BARNES**. WE'RE **RIKKI'S** GRANDPARENTS.

THE FOLKS AT S.H.I.E.L.D. SAY SHE'LL BE BACK ON HER FEET IN NO TIME.

IN CASE YOU EVER HAD ANY DOUBT, WHAT YOU DID FOR OUR **RIKKI** MADE HER WHOLE WORLD WORTH LIVING.

"**PEGGY**," "**BUCKY**," FORGIVE ME, BUT DO I... KNOW YOU TWO?

IT HAS BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE TO BRING ME BACK MY SHIELD --

-- AND SO THE WORLD COULD HAVE A **CAPTAIN AMERICA** ONCE MORE.

YA DO KNOW THEM, PATRIOT, IN A WAY...

 **SEE CAPTAIN AMERICA #1 VOL. II -- Mike.**



'COURSE FER NATIONAL SECURITY I CAN'T TELL YA HOW OR WHEN.

Mr. AND Mrs. BARNES, IF YA'LL GIVE US A MOMENT HERE.

YA DID GOOD UP AGAINST GALACTUS. AND UNCLE SAM WANTS TA SAY "THANK YOU."

YA BLASTED PATRIOT.

WE'RE KEEPIN' AN EYE ON YER... PARTNER. SHE'S GONNA BE FINE.

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT NOW, FURY?!

FER THE RECORD.

ALL THAT STUFF YOU WERE TOLD ABOUT TRUMAN AND THE BOMB AND WHERE YA BEEN ALL THESE YEARS --

S.H.I.E.L.D. TOLD YA WHAT THEY HAD TA TO GET YOU TO PUT THE COSTUME BACK ON.

THAT DON'T MAKE IT THE TRUTH.

SEE CAPTAIN AMERICA #3 VOL II - Mike.

FOR THE RECORD, FURY.

I KNEW ALL ALONG...

TIME
AND TIME
AGAIN.

THE
HEROES STOOD
REUNITED TO FIGHT
THE GREATEST
THREAT TO THEIR
UNIVERSE --

-- NEVER
REALIZING THIS
WOULD BE A THREAT
THEY HAD SURVIVED
BEFORE AND WILL
AGAIN.

FOR SUCH
IS THE NATURE OF
HEROISM -- NEVER
TO ASK WHAT THE
WORLD HAS DONE
FOR YOU...

...BUT ASK
WHAT YOU CAN
DO FOR YOUR
WORLD...

I AM CALLED
THE WATCHER, AND
THIS HAS BEEN ONLY
ONE OF THE MANY
TALES OF HEROES
REBORN.

